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A.A.A.S. BULLETIN

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Dr. Howard A. Meyerhoff

For almost a year Dr. Howard A. Meyerhoff has been one of the editors of the A.A.A.S. BULLETIN and has contributed largely to its columns. Now the Department of State has sent him on a mission to South America which will take all his time for probably the larger part of 1947. Readers of the BULLETIN have valued highly his illuminating discussions of the organization and policies of the Association, and perhaps even more his clear and penetrating comments on various subjects of current interest to scientists and other scholars. His departure has been a great loss to the executive officers of the Association.

At various times in recent years Dr. Meyerhoff has been asked whether he would not join the executive staff of the Association. It was realized early in the war that science is becoming the most important factor in the progress of the world, and that the Association, because of its large membership and the breadth of its organization, should play a very important role in its advancement. The responsibilities placed upon the Association by events and the opportunities for service to science and society made it highly important to increase its operating staff. With these conditions in mind, the officers turned to Dr. Meyerhoff who had been secretary of the Section on Geology and Geography for eight years and Vice President for the same section, and who had had a wide experience as a scientist, educator, and in civic and business affairs. He secured leave of absence from Smith College for one year and accepted an appointment to the executive staff of the Association for a year terminating June 30, 1946. However, he became so involved in various administrative duties that he remained three and one half months beyond the term of his original appointment. The best wishes of the officers of the Association, and doubtless of thousands of readers of the A.A.A.S. BULLETIN, will follow him in his mission to lands beyond the equator, with full confidence that he will be a worthy representative of our Government, our science, and our civilization.—F. R. M.

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The Size of Annual Meetings

During the summer months the secretaries of several affiliated societies and of one section discussed amongst themselves and with the Washington office the advisability of developing an annual meeting of their own, possibly under the auspices of the Association, but distinct in time and in place from the regular annual meeting of the parent organization. The sentiment was not one of secession, but rather of suppression—these organizations felt somewhat overwhelmed by the size and complexity of the Saint Louis meeting and of the impending Boston meeting and of the prospective Chicago meeting.

While the discussion was in progress conferences were held with the officers of two sections whose complaint was that attendance at their meetings was not commensurate with the caliber of their programs. Indeed, each section and its affiliates have distinctly individual reactions to Association meetings which, evidently, are "all things to all people." The varied reaction prompts some reflection as to what the annual meetings actually are and what they should be.

To some extent these meetings, like Topsy, "just growed," but like Topsy's growth there has been some system and coherence in the expansion of the scientific activity which they embrace. Many groups have split off and gone each its separate way. The engineering Societies, for example, feel neither collective nor individual responsibility for the programs of Section M. The botanists and zoologists, on the other hand, have made Association meetings the focal point of their own annual activities. The explanations of these contrasting attitudes are not difficult to find. For practical reasons engineering has be-

come so highly departmentalized that metallurgists, radio engineers, and mechanical engineers do not speak the same technical language, whereas no biologist, however specialized, dares remain wholly ignorant of taxonomy, or pathology, or genetics, or morphology.

One may draw his own conclusions about the relative values and practical needs of specialization versus generalization; but surely only one conclusion is possible regarding modern trends in science. The most spectacular advances are no longer being made in narrowly specialized fields, but are drawing upon phenomena from two or more fields which superficially may not appear to be closely related. These advances are no longer being made by the narrow specialist who, by definition, "knows more and more about less and less," but, rather, by the scientists who can see beyond their own specialties and who expose themselves to disciplines other than their own.

Association meetings are prime opportunities for such exposure, not so much by deliberate planning as by the very heterogeneity of the elements involved in their creation. There have been thought and talk of limiting them, and limitations can be imposed in several ways: Each annual meeting could be restricted by limiting the number of participating sections. Different fields could thus be covered in different combinations in successive years, but there is nothing more stultifying than discontinuity in activity, especially if arbitrarily imposed. Or the sessions could be partially or entirely restricted to topics of broad and rather general interest, somewhat like those of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Such meetings would appeal to those whose interests are already broad, but it is geology that draws the average geologist and chemistry that turns out the average chemist —not some general theme that seems to have little bearing upon his own individual interests.

Is this, then, an argument for the retention of the present type of meeting? Fundamentally, it is, but with an exhortation. Obviously those societies which hold their annual meetings with the Association must transact society business, must provide program time for miscellaneous papers by members, must schedule some social events. For these organizations these functions are no different than they would be if they were held in seclusion in some other part of the country, save for the influx of visitors from other societies who deem some one paper or program especially important. However, each society may wisely seize the opportunity to meet jointly with other groups, to expand horizons and to explore the applications of other disciplines within its own field. And similarly the Washington office of the Association may thoughtfully organize general sessions—technical or nontechnical—either to develop subjects of current interest and significance, or to cover gaps in the programs of the sections, or to embrace fields which its constituent parts can not encompass.

Much thought is being given to the dissemination of research to the end that new discoveries may quickly reach those prepared to use them. Several articles on this subject have crossed the writer's desk in recent months, and ingenious but cumbersome and expensive machinery has been devised to bring research and researcher together. In all the schemes the finished research offers the greatest mechanical problem but the least psychological problem. The difficulty which none of them squarely meets is psychological—namely, that of getting the researcher to recognize the value of research which others have performed. It is not dissemination so much as receptivity that counts; and perhaps the Association has served scientists best by providing optimum conditions for the reception of new research in many fields at its annual meetings.—H.A.M.

A.A.A.S. Proceedings and Directory

A few months ago a request was sent to each member of the Association for biographical material for use in the next issue of the Summarized Proceedings (for the period from the last preceding volume in 1940) and current Directory of Members.

Three complicating circumstances promptly developed and interfered with plans. First, an extraordinary number of members were changing their mail addresses. As was reported in the November BULLETIN, it has been costing the Association about $15 a day to make the records and mailing lists conform with these migrations. Obviously it is undesirable to have obsolete addresses in a directory.

Another difficulty has been that of getting firm commitments for printing such a large book at any definite time at any fixed price. This unfavorable condition appears to be passing, at least as far as the time of completion of the printing is concerned.

The third reason for deferring for a time the publication of a new Directory of Members is that the names of many new members (an average of 60 a business day since October 1) would have been omitted if copy had been sent to the

printer in October. Naturally new members will desire to have their names in the Directory, and persons using the Directory will expect to find in it the names of recently elected members.

As a consequence of the conditions enumerated completion of the copy for the Proceedings and Directory of Members has been deferred until after the Boston meeting. That delay will make it possible to include in this volume a summarized report of the Boston meeting, as well as the names of several thousand new members. It will be possible also to list the officers of the Association for 1947, and to make note of those who have recently been elected Fellows of the Association. During the war period, in which only one meeting of the Association was held, relatively few members were elected Fellows. In the near future the secretaries of the sections will be asked to go over their membership lists and make nominations of members for fellowship.

The Science Society of China

(Soon to be changed to Chinese A.A.S.)

The Science Society of China, an institution for the cultivation and promotion of science in China, was founded on June 10, 1914, by a group of Chinese students who were studying in the United States of North America. At the time research laboratories, scientific publications, a science library, and other enterprises were planned.

The founders began the publication, in 1915, of a monthly journal called "Science," which has become a leading journal in China. In addition, the society has issued transactions, monographs, memoirs, treatises, and books in English and Chinese on scientific subjects. Since 1933 another monthly journal, "Popular Science," has been published for the dissemination of scientific knowledge to the public. This journal immediately won a circulation of more than 20,000 copies for each issue, and became well-known through China.

In 1920 a library was opened in Nanking of scientific books and periodicals for the use of teachers and students of science. This library was later moved with the headquarters of the Science Society to Shanghai. Despite all difficulties in purchasing new books and magazines during the eight years' Sino-Japanese war, the library still possesses more than 40,000 scientific books and magazines, and renders important service to the public and cultural institutions in Shanghai.

In 1922 the Biological Laboratory was established in Nanking and directed by Professor Ping Chih, one of the founders of the Society. This laboratory has sent out expeditions to various parts of China to collect plant and animal specimens for its herbarium and museum, carried on biological researches in different fields, and trained specialists in biology. The publication "Contributions from the Biological Laboratory of the Science Society of China" has been exchanged with more than 800 biological institutions all over the world.

During the World War a large part of books of the library and specimens of the laboratory were plundered by the Japanese, and the buildings in Nanking were entirely demolished. Therefore, the laboratories need to be rebuilt, and re-equipped, and the library needs to be replenished with new books, journals, and magazines. The founders and members of the Science Society sincerely hope that friends of China will consider the service which this Society may render to the scientists in China and will help in the effort of securing books, journals, and magazines and equipment for the Science Society of China.

Contributions in checks, scientific books, journals, magazines, and reprints are welcomed and may be sent directly to Doctor Y. T. Loo, Permanent Secretary, The Science Society of China, 533 South Shensi Road, Shanghai, China; or to The Science Society of China, c:o China Institute of America, 125 East 65th Street, New York 21, N. Y.—Y. T. Loo, Permanent Secretary.

The Michigan Junior Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters

The Council of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters has long recognized the need of a Junior Academy in the state and the value of such an organization in the education of young people. Approval of a Junior Academy was given officially by the Council some five years ago when a committee was appointed to make preliminary investigations, and the constitution of the Senior Academy was amended to permit that body to foster a Junior Organization.

The war interrupted the completion of plans but the idea was kept alive until May, 1946, when the first Junior Academy meeting was held at East Lansing. Officers were elected, a constitution was adopted, and plans were made for a Junior Academy journal. Dr. Dean McLaughlin of the University of Michigan is serving at present on the Junior Academy Committee and Dr.

G. W. Prescott has been appointed State Sponsor and State Coordinator for Science Clubs of America, with which the Junior Academy is affiliated.

Since the first meeting in May, 1946, a second and very successful one was held in Ann Arbor in November. This was attended by the Charter Member-Clubs, those who had joined prior to October 20, 1946, and their guests. Several departments of the University of Michigan cooperated in the program that was arranged by the Committee and the officers of the Junior Academy. There were tours of the University Museums and the Astronomical Observatory in the morning session. In the afternoon a business meeting was followed by a showing of films loaned by the State Department of Conservation, and by a demonstration of liquid nitrogen through the courtesy of the Departments of Physics and Chemistry.

The first number of a Junior Academy Journal in mimeographed form has been published and plans have been made for three more issues during the present school year. An Editor has been elected and he has appointed his own editorial staff to assist in the publication of the journal.

In keeping with the objectives of the organization a state-wide science and art fair and convention is being arranged for the Spring of 1947. One of the chief aims of this federation is to stimulate interest in science and scholarly, creative work. It is felt that an opportunity to demonstrate results of individual or club projects and to present papers describing them, or other original work, will assist materially in realizing this objective.

The Junior Academy constitution provides that any scholarly club sponsored by a member of the Senior Michigan Academy is eligible for membership. Individuals who are not members of a club may become Associate Members upon the recommendation of a teacher or a Senior Academy member. Each club or Associate Member pays an entrance fee of $1.00 and minimum dues of $1.00 per year. Each individual contributes 10 cents per year toward the dues of his club, for which he receives the Academy Journal. The constitution also provides for the election of the best boy and girl member to Honorary Membership in the Michigan Academy, and the election of Honorary Junior Members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The success of the Junior Academy movement in this country stems largely from the interest in it which has been shown by the fostering Academy Conference sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. As is well known, the Academy Conference is composed of representatives of State Academies (one from each organization) who meet annually with the A.A.A.S. convention.—G. W. Prescott.

The American Oil Chemists' Society

The American Oil Chemists' Society was founded in 1909 by a group of cottonseed chemists attending a meeting of the Interstate Cotton Seed Crushers' Association in Memphis. Formal organization was completed a year later at Little Rock, Arkansas, where 20 charter members established the "Society of Cotton Products Analysts." The Society had among its objectives the raising of standards for analytical work performed by chemists in the cottonseed industry. In 1920 the activities of the Society were expanded so that all chemists in the various fat and oil industries could be included, and the name was changed to that which is used at present. In the following year, the American Oil Chemists' Society was incorporated under the laws of the State of Louisiana.

Of the Society's administrative committee, the oldest is the Referee Examining Board, established to maintain a high standard of performance among referee chemists. The trade organizations, particularly the National Cottonseed Products Association and the National Soybean Processors Association, require that disputes between buyer and seller be settled on the basis of analytical results obtained by a referee chemist who is approved by the AOCS. The Referee Examining Board, therefore, issues licenses to commercial chemists who demonstrate, by applying the Society's methods to numerous check samples, that they are qualified to perform the analyses in settling trade disagreements.

The Literature Review Committee was established to provide chemists a means for reviewing the entire chemical literature on fats and oils in a minimum of time. Members of the Committee study all publications in this field and each year publish a brief summary of the information contained in every article. In addition, monthly reports are made in the Society's official organ, "Oil and Soap," on the current scientific literature pertaining to fats and oils.

Another of the Society's functions that has contributed much to its prestige in the scientific world is the publication of an official organ in which are printed both accounts of the activities of the Society and technical articles, the latter

comprising a substantial part of the chemical literature in the field of fats and oils. The Society established its quarterly *Journal of Oil and Fat Industries* in 1924. Reception of the new journal was so enthusiastic that in 1926 monthly publication was begun under the direction of an Editorial Board. In 1932, the name of the organ was changed to *Oil and Soap* and on January 1, 1947, it will be changed to *Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society*.

The Society holds two meetings each year, usually one in the Spring in New Orleans and one in the Fall at Chicago. These meetings are of 3 days' duration and are devoted largely to the presenting of scientific papers. Originally founded as an association of cottonseed analysts, the Society has continuously grown and expanded into new fields, including the soap, soybean, drying oil, and many other allied industries, and in each it has become a major factor in the conduct of the industry's affairs. Through the years it has faithfully maintained the highest standards for membership and the quality of its services, and it has provided all chemists interested in oils and fats an opportunity for professional betterment, good fellowship, and the congenial discussion of matters of mutual scientific interest.—W. H. Goss.

Nominations for Membership

A member recently inquired about the procedure for nominating friends for membership in the Association. Nothing could be simpler or more effective. To make a nomination it is sufficient to send the name and address of the person to the office of the Association and to state simply that the writer nominates him for membership. Upon receipt of such a communication, a letter of invitation to membership is sent to the nominee and a carbon copy to the person making the nomination. Such communications are much more effective in arousing interest in the recipients than would be those of the commercial type.

Experience proves the correctness of the foregoing statements. In October and November of this year about 2500 new members were added to the membership roll of the Association, of whom more than 2000 were nominated by members. The administrative officers of the Association hope that the nominations will continue. There is a special reason for continuing nominations at a high level in the next few months The next Summarized Proceedings and Directory of Members is in preparation. It will include a summarized report of the Boston meeting, after which the work on the new Proceedings will be pushed forward more rapidly. But the fact of special interest to new members in this connection is that their names, with brief biographical data, will be included in the new volume among the names of more than 30,000 other scientists.

In one respect the Association's Directory of Members is unique. It contains a Geographical Index by countries, states and cities of all the members of the Association. If anyone should desire to know the names of members of the Association who reside in Alaska, for example, he would turn to Alaska in the Geographical Index. In the 1940 volume he would find that there were 15 members of the Association distributed among 8 towns in Alaska. He would find 14 members of the Association in Cuba, in 1940, and the same number in Peru.

The A.A.A.S. Bulletin's Farewell

For reasons stated in the November issue the BULLETIN now bids its readers farewell, possibly to return when conditions become more favorable again. This issue is the fifty-eighth since it was started in March, 1942, and it now completes a total of 464 pages. Its primary purpose was to make available to all members of the Association news items about its membership, its meetings, its symposium publications, its history, and its role in advancing science. Some such method of reaching the entire membership of the Association was deemed necessary because only about 60 percent of the members receive *Science* and 40 percent *The Scientific Monthly*.

That the BULLETIN reasonably fulfilled its primary purpose is proved by the fact that announcements and requests in it invariably brought large responses. Several times it was necessary because of unexpected increases in the membership of the Association to ask for back copies of *Science* and *The Scientific Monthly* for new members. In response to such requests several thousand copies of these journals were donated. When announcements were made of new symposium publications or that older ones were nearing exhaustion, many orders for them promptly followed. When it was explained that failure to pay dues before the end of December might delay or perhaps prevent the receipt of January issues of the journals, a larger percentage of members paid their dues promptly than ever before. The success of the BULLETIN in carrying messages to members of the Association has undoubtedly been due in large part to the fact that its pages have been so few and its

articles so short that it has been read promptly instead of having been laid aside for a more favorable occasion that probably would never have come.

The brief life of the BULLETIN has been during a time in which practically all of mankind was engaged in a struggle involving the very foundations of human relations. Such periods of stress stimulate reflections on social, economic, religious and philosophic problems which in serene times lie largely on the horizons of the interests of most people. Unfortunately in these years the time and energies of those most competent to analyze and discuss such supremely important subjects were all used in the war. Under these conditions the BULLETIN from time to time contained brief articles on subjects deserving of more thorough treatment and exposition. Among such articles were "Noblesse Oblige," "Science and Technology," "Knowledge and Wisdom," "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity," "Academic Freedom," "Forty Years of Education," "Forty Years of Plenty," and "Forty Years of Failures."

In most of these discussions the essential roles science has played in transforming the world and human relations were emphasized. For example, applications of science and technology have made it possible to offer educational opportunities to nearly all American boys and girls almost to maturity, and have provided high levels of living not dreamed of three generations ago. Yet, there have been discouraging failures—continuing illiteracy, increasing mental disease, juvenile delinquents, suicides, breaking up of homes. Science and technology have been successful beyond imagination in achieving their direct aims; failures have been due to what may be classed, roughly, as moral deficiencies.

For some months it has been hoped that, to stimulate consideration of these contrasts, there would be an opportunity to propose in the BULLETIN the formulation by some social statesman of a *Bill of Responsibilities*. Much is heard of bills of rights, the GI Bill of Rights, for example, many of them trading on the reverence in which the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the United States has been held by our people. To every proposed bill of rights for the few there must be a corresponding bill of responsibilities or the result will be despotism or strife.

It is too late to do more than mention the moral and social values of bills of responsibilities. Perhaps the foregoing few words will arouse as many reflections as would more extended comments. At any rate the BULLETIN, if it may be personified, says regretfully to its many readers:

Farewell! A word that must be, and hath been
—A sound which makes us linger,—yet—farewell!

F.R.M.

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Membership in the Association

Eligibility for Membership

Membership in the Association is open to all persons engaged in scientific work, whether in the fields of the natural or the social sciences; to all amateur scientists, whatever their special interests; and to all who desire to follow the advances of science and its effects upon civilization. Members having made substantial contributions to the advancement of science are eligible for election as fellows.

Dues and Publications

Membership dues are $5 per year, including subscriptions for the monthly A.A.A.S. Bulletin and either the weekly journal *Science*, now in its 104th volume, or *The Scientific Monthly*, now in its 63rd volume. *Science* is a journal for professional scientists; the *Monthly* is a nontechnical journal for the intelligent public. The Association also publishes technical symposia and nontechnical books on science that are available for members at prices substantially below those to the public.

Organization and Meetings

The Association was founded in 1848, with an initial membership of 461. Papers in its early programs were classified as either natural philosophy or natural history. Now its work is organized under 16 sections and 200 associated societies having a total membership of over 500,000. Its annual meetings are the greatest regular gatherings of scientists in the world.

Nominations and Applications for Membership

Members may submit nominations for membership at any time, and persons desiring to become members can obtain membership application forms from the Office of the Association, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington 5, D. C.

Changes of Address

New addresses for the Association's record and for mailing the journals *Science* and *The Scientific Monthly*, as well as the A.A.A.S. Bulletin, should be in the Office of the Administrative Secretary, Washington 5, D. C., at least two weeks in advance of the date when the change is to become effective.

Officers of the Association

President, James B. Conant; *Administrative Secretary*, F. R. Moulton; *General Secretary*, Otis W. Caldwell; *Treasurer*, W. E. Wrather.

Executive Committee: Charles F. Kettering, *Chairman;* Otis W. Caldwell, Anton J. Carlson, Arthur H. Compton, James B. Conant, Burton E. Livingston, Kirtley F. Mather, Walter R. Miles, F. R. Moulton, Fernandus Payne, and Elvin C. Stakman.